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1. The French military situation at all posts along the China-Tonkin frontier is potentially disastrous, unless remaining French troops are withdrawn to the perimeter of the Red River delta or are heavily reinforced, which is an impossibility at this time.

2. The French are arriving at the conclusion previously suggested by [REDACTED] 25X1X [REDACTED] that the French military positions along the frontier are untenable.* The French position in the delta area could normally be held, but under present circumstances it is completely open to undermining from behind the lines.

3. Although susceptible to sudden reverse, the local Vietnamese attitude until now has been one of wait and see. With the exception of French sympathizers, many of whom are reported to be reserving air space out of the area, the people appear to be cautiously optimistic. This includes even Catholics, though not necessarily Catholic leaders, who feel that they should be anti-Viet Minh, but whose anti-French sentiments overcome this feeling.

4. Although strict censorship is imposed by the French in this area, the local people are aware of what is taking place. French authorities are resentful of the slowness of American aid.

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* See

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